PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

TRANSLATION INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference			FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/IPEA/416				
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International application No. PCT/EP2004/013597			International filing date 01.12.2004	(aay/monin/year)	Priority date (day/month/year) 05.12.2003	,			
				a .	05.12.2003				
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC F16H55/28									
Applican	nt								
ZF 1	LENKSYSTEME	GMBH							
1.	1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.								
2.	This REPORT consists	of a total of	5	sheets, including	g this cover sheet.				
3.	This report is also acco	mpanied by A	NNEXES, comprising:						
	a. (sent to the	applicant and	to the International Bured	w) a total of 7	sheets	as follows:			
	,								
	sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).								
	sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental								
	Box.								
	b (sent to the	International	Bureau only) a total of (in	dicate type and number	r of electronic carrier(s))				
	, containing a sequence listing and/or tables								
			r readable form only, as intrative Instructions).	ndicated in the Supple	mental Box Relating to Sequen	ce Listing (see			
4.	This report contains in	dications relati	ng to the following items:						
	Box No. I	Basis of the	report						
	Box No. II	Priority							
	Box No. III	Non-establi	shment of opinion with re	nment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability					
	Box No. IV		ty of invention	•		•			
	Box No. V		•	2) with regard to novel	ty, inventive step or industrial a	applicability;			
		citations an	d explanations supporting	such statement					
	Box No. VI	Certain doc	uments cited						
	Box No. VII	Certain def	ects in the international ap	plication					
	Box No. VIII	Certain obs	ervations on the internatio	nal application					
Date of s	submission of the deman	ıd	Da	ate of completion of the	s report				
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP			A	Authorized officer					
Facsimile No.			Te	elephone No.					

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International application No.

PCT/EP2004/013597

Box	No. I	No. I Basis of the report							
1.		With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language indicated under this item.	in which it was filed, unless otherwise						
	Wiel	This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of: international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b)) publication of the international application (Rule 12.4) international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)							
2.	rece	ith regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (replacement sheets which have been furnished to the ceiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to is report): the international application as originally filed/furnished the description: pages 1–20 as originally filed/furnished							
		pages 1–20 pages* received by this Authority or							
		pages* received by this Authority or							
	\boxtimes	the claims:							
		nos.	as originally filed/furnished						
		nos.* as amended (toge							
		nos.* 1-25 received by this Authority or							
		nos.* received by this Authority or							
	\boxtimes	the drawings:							
		sheets 1/5-5/5	as originally filed/furnished						
		sheets* received by this Authority or	1						
		sheets* received by this Authority of	1						
		a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence	e Listing.						
3.		The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:	e amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:						
		the description, pages							
		the claims, nos.	1 1 2 -						
		the drawings, sheets/figs]						
		the sequence listing (specify):							
		any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify):							
4.		This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Suppler							
		the description, pages							
		the claims, nos.							
		the drawings, sheets/figs							
		the sequence listing (specify):							
		any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify):							
*	If ite	If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."							

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PCT/EP2004/013597

Box		soned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; tions and explanations supporting such statement				
1.	Statement					
	Novelty (N)	Claims	1-25	YES		
		Claims		_ NO		
Inventive step (IS)		Claims	1-25	YES		
		Claims		_ NO		
Industrial applicability (IA)		Claims	1-25	_ YES		
		Claims		_ NO		

- 2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)
 - 1. Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: US-A-4 593 578.

- 2. Document D1 is considered the prior art closest to the subject matter of claims 1 and 16. It discloses (the references between parentheses relate to D1):
- 2.1 a device for pressing a rack (2) against a pinion, comprising a pressure part (7) and a supporting element (4), wherein a spring element (6) disposed between the pressure part (7) and the supporting element (4) exerts the first of at least two consecutive degrees of pressure pressing the pressure part (7) against the rack (2), wherein the pressure part (7) and the supporting element (4) each have support surfaces facing each other, which in a basic position are disposed at a distance from each other.

The subject matter of claim 1 therefore differs from the known device in that the pressure part

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

and the supporting element are made of metal, the support surface of the supporting element is elastic, such that the second degree of pressure is exerted as soon as the support surfaces contact each other, the pressure part and the supporting element each have second supporting surfaces which face each other and in the basic position are disposed at a distance from each other which is greater than the distance between the first supporting surfaces, and wherein the second supporting surfaces are designed in such a way that they constitute a limit stop for the movement of the pressure part.

2.2 Document D1 discloses (the references between parentheses relate to D1): a device for pressing a rack (2) against a pinion, having a pressure part (7) and a supporting element (4), wherein the pressure part (7) and the supporting element (4) each have supporting surfaces facing each other.

The subject matter of claim 16 therefore differs from the known device in that the pressure part and the supporting element are made of metal, the pressure part and the supporting element each have supporting surfaces which face each other and in the basic position contact each other, the supporting surface of the supporting element is elastic, and the pressure part and the supporting element each have second supporting surfaces which face each other, are at a distance from each other in a basic position, and constitute a limit stop

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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement for the movement of the pressure part. 3. The problem to be solved by the present invention is therefore understood to be that of reducing pressure part play and minimizing noise. This combination of features is not known from or suggested by the available prior art. The suggested solution is therefore inventive. Claims 1 and 16 and dependent claims 2 to 15 and 16 to 25 therefore satisfy the requirements of PCT Article 33(2) and (3).